

# Second Sunday in Easter

April 19, 2020

For video viewing of music and service go to:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEO\\_pAVddaeV1\\_dOvUd5eITX0IJKxqmM](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEO_pAVddaeV1_dOvUd5eITX0IJKxqmM)

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

**C: *Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen***

## **\*THE FIRST LESSON**

### **Acts 2:14a,22-32**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

## **\*THE SECOND LESSON**

### **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **\*THE GOSPEL READING**

### **John 20:19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### **SERMON: PASTOR RICHARD CARBAUGH**

*The Day of Resurrection has come and gone. The greatest event ever to take place has happened. In light of that, you would expect to see the followers of Jesus all fired up and ready to go. After all, they are now Easter people! What can stop them now! So how does our Gospel reading begin? "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear...". Where is the excitement? Where is the energy? Instead, what we see is a group of people so low in spirit that they can't even get out of the house, can't get out of the way of themselves.*

*Sometimes, this Sunday after Easter is called Low Sunday because the attendance is often much lower than it was on Easter Day. I guess this year we can't get much lower in terms of church attendance, though certainly not because we want it to be that way. It may even be there are some in the church who are feeling low because of all of this: Is this doing anything to our congregation? Will we recover okay from all of this? I think we will - after all, this is God's Church and the Spirit is strong and powerful, and Messiah's members are faithful and committed. But it is human to sometimes feel like the disciples huddled together behind locked doors, to feel like it is still Good Friday and not Easter. In those hours of uncertainty for the disciples, there must have been a lot of questioning going on. Despite Peter's grand statements of faith and courage, he, like the others, ran away when the going got tough. It wasn't just Judas; they all deserted Jesus.*

So the Resurrected Jesus came to the disciples in the midst of all of those feelings and fears. We can imagine what Jesus could have said. Where were you people? After all I did for you, look what you did when I could have used your help. You call yourselves disciples?! When I looked down from the cross, when things were as difficult as they get, I looked into the crowds and didn't see you! Where were you? Jesus could have said all of that, but He didn't. Instead, Jesus came into their locked room, that room filled with fear and guilt, and said: "Peace be with you." In other words - 'I forgive you'; 'I love you'. You see, there was no way they were going to be able to do what Jesus needed them to do if they were afraid to step out of their locked and dark room, if they were feeling guilty about what they should or shouldn't have done. And in case they missed it, Jesus says again: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit'." Through the Resurrection, Jesus showed that there was no power strong enough to defeat Him, to hold Him back. With all they were going through, the disciples needed to believe that it would be impossible for them to be held back too. At Southern Seminary, where I attended, there is huge marble wall behind the pulpit where students preach. On that wall, there is etched an inscription: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The inscription is positioned in such a way that whoever is preaching covers over the word 'you'. We, all of us, are to understand ourselves as being sent by Christ.

So, like in creation, Jesus breathes on them with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that moves in the darkness, the Spirit that makes things happen. With that same Spirit we have received in our Baptism, Jesus breathes on all of us so we can get beyond our fears and do what Jesus needs us to do. He says to us: "Peace be with you". God forgives us for those times when we have lived as less than what we needed to be; and God breathes on us to help us be more than what we ever think we can be. Jesus was catching the disciples, and us, up in something more, something that requires a boldness for living in and carrying out the Good News. Some years ago there was a movie call 'Mask'. The story was about a boy who is disfigured and who could have had a hard time getting along in society. The story is also about his mother who believed in the possibilities of her son. It was that belief that helped her see in him qualities and possibilities that others were not willing or were not able to see. In a similar way, Jesus sees in us the possibilities that we probably cannot see in ourselves.

This was especially true with Thomas. Often called 'Doubting Thomas', perhaps is it more accurate to call him 'disillusioned Thomas'. You get the feeling that Thomas felt Jesus had let him down. How could Jesus, the Messiah, possibly let Himself be put to death? What a disappointment Jesus was! Maybe you have known what it is like to be disillusioned. Someone has let you down, perhaps someone you have looked up to. Maybe you have even become disillusioned with God at times. God hasn't acted in the way you expected or wanted God to act. Indeed, Thomas was dejected, disappointed, disillusioned with

Jesus. Who would blame him if he just left all together? I have seen that happen in the church sometimes. But notice what Thomas does. Thomas stays with the fellowship. True, he wasn't around the first time Jesus appeared. Maybe he needed a little space for a while. But he maintains his connection with the community. And because he maintained that connection, it was in that community that Thomas encountered the Risen Christ.

One of the gifts our Baptism offers us is that we are brought into a community of faith. There may be times when that community doesn't live up to everything we think it should; and there may be times when we do not live up to everything we need to be in that community. But it is when we, like Thomas, stay connected to that community that we, too, experience the Resurrected Christ. Maybe you remember the character Squiggy in the old Laverne and Shirley show. He always had problems with the English language. Someone was trying to convince him that something was really true. Squiggy says: "Oh yeah, I'll see it when I believe it!" Instead of 'I'll believe it when I see it', Jesus was trying to get Thomas, and all of us, to be able to see it because we believe it. That is what the community of faith can help us do - see it because we believe it.

We are people of the Resurrection. And what Jesus did for the disciples, Jesus does for us. Though He may have wanted things to be different, Jesus doesn't say how come you haven't done this or that, doesn't say where were you when I needed you. Rather, Jesus says: "Peace be with you". Jesus has breathed on us and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit". You see, Jesus believes in us. Jesus sees in us the possibilities of who we can be and what we can do. Even though we sometimes retreat to dark, locked rooms of fear and disbelief, Jesus comes to us and offers Himself, Jesus shows us that no power has held Him back and no power will hold us back. And most importantly, Jesus gives us this community where we too can experience and share the Resurrected Christ in our midst.

There was a young woman who had a child born out of wedlock. She brought her young child to a small rural church for Baptism. This was in a time when such a situation was looked down upon. On the day of Baptism, the young woman courageously stood alone in front of the congregation. Recognizing the awkwardness of the situation, the pastor asked: "Who stands with this child to assure that the commitments and promises made here today will be fulfilled? Who will be there for this child, and this mother, in times of need to help them know the love of God?" And almost as if on cue, the entire congregation stood and with one voice said: "We will!"

That is what the church is about; that is what the people of Messiah Lutheran Church are about; that is what this community of faith is all about - proclaiming a Resurrected Lord who has empowered us to do wonderful things in His name. If you believe it, then you will see it. Amen

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **\*PRAYERS**

**A:** Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)*

**A:** Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

A: Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. (Here other worldwide ministries may be named.) Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God, you are life. We pray for our distraught world facing coronavirus. We pray for countries hardest hit, especially China, Italy, Spain and the United States. We pray for those who grieve their dead, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of families. For all our Messiah families and especially this week for the Whirley, Wightman and Williams families. For the talents and good things You have given each of them. Keep them united and faithful to You and each other. Guide them, protect them and equip them to do Your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**C: *Our Father, who art in heaven,***

***hallowed be thy name,***

***thy kingdom come, thy will be done,***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread;***

***and forgive us our trespasses,***

***as we forgive those who trespass against us;***

***and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,***

***forever and ever. Amen.***

### **\*BENEDICTION**

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

# *Announcements*

## **PASTOR CARBAUGH'S OFFICE HOURS**

For the time being Pastor Carbaugh will be working from home. If you need to reach him, his email address is: [messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com). In the event of a pastoral emergency, he can be reached at 540-760-4089. Please be safe and take care during this challenging time for us.

## **YOU HAVE CHOICES!**

You now have 3 ways to participate remotely in the Midweek Message and our Sunday service.

1. Using the link in the E-bulletin or email you receive will automatically take you to Messiah's YouTube channel where you will find the Current Week Service. Clicking 'Play All' will take you through the opening music, sermon, and closing music for that day. There is also the Current Mid-Week Message on the next line of choices. All videos and music will be archived on our channel for you to refer back if you desire to do so.
2. Go to Messiah's website, <https://messiahmech.com/>, click on Messiah Digital and go to the video that you're seeking which will in most cases be the first video listed, be it midweek or Sunday. Sunday services will contain music as well as Pastor's video sermon. For the Sunday bulletin, click on the E-bulletin link.
3. Go to Messiah's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>, and find the post for the midweek message or Sunday service that you're looking for. The Sunday post will contain music as well as the video sermon. For the e-bulletin, you would need to access the email containing it or go to the church website where it is posted.

We hope you find these choices helpful in staying connected with our church family! If you have questions or comments, please let Donna Shaw know at [dmslaw70@gmail.com](mailto:dmslaw70@gmail.com).

## **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>, we began providing a summary of the financial well-being of our congregation. Here is this week's information:

- Contributions to general fund averaged \$3348 through APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> (up from \$3330 on April 5<sup>th</sup>).
- We are \$830.41 behind of the year-to-date budget needs (up from \$1041.41 behind the budget the week prior).

### **DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS**

Devotional booklets are still available on a table outside of the narthex doors. Please pick one up if you happen to be driving by and want one. If you'd like one and can't come by church to pick one up, please let the church office know or contact your Council person. We will come up with a plan to get you one.

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Don't forget that the congregation's expenses continue every week. Please try to mail in your offering to the church office, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, or use on-line giving through Vanco which is available on the church website. See [messiahmech.com](http://messiahmech.com) for more details.

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Those who would like to place announcements in our Sunday 'ebulletin' please send them to Donna Shaw at [dmslaw70@gmail.com](mailto:dmslaw70@gmail.com) by Wednesday for inclusion.

# *Prayer List*

## WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Kenneth Deere	"Doc" Kondaki
Adam Sworak, Sr.	Linda Krupa
JoAn Firebaugh	Mac McAllister
Bill Fulop	Roberta McMillen
Elisabeth Gardner	Pat Motley
Werner Gardner	Nathan, Ruth Schroeder & family
Steve Gilnett	Judy Schwerdfeger
Geoffrey Honan	

## WE PRAY FOR OUR EXTENDED FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

**Boyd Allison**, friend of Jean Wightman.  
**Family and Friends of Dennis Anderson**, father of James Anderson.  
**Joe Griffin**, friend of Anne Mason.  
**Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philip.  
**Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger.  
**Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger.  
**Family and friends of Wanda Umlauf**, Vicar Ginny Banister's mother  
**T.J.**, grandson of the Whirleys.

**Pastor Carbaugh**, as he walks with us in this interim time  
**Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families**  
**All law enforcement, firefighters & first responders**  
**The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine, of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry**

**Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities**  
**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**The World Health Organization Medical researchers and scientists**  
**Schools, workplaces, government institutions and municipal agencies**  
**For all who travel**